

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A herpes simplex virus with a genome that comprises (i) an expressible non-herpes simplex virus nucleotide sequence encoding a desired protein and (ii) an alteration in the γ 34.5 gene, wherein said protein is a cytokine.

17. (Previously Presented) The herpes simplex virus of claim 16, wherein both copies of said γ 34.5 gene are altered.

18. (Previously Presented) The herpes simplex virus of claim 16, further comprising at least one further gene alteration.

19. (Previously Presented) The herpes simplex virus of claim 18, wherein said at least one further gene alteration is in the ribonucleotide reductase gene.

20. (Previously Presented) The herpes simplex virus of claim 16, wherein said herpes simplex virus is G207.

21.-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The herpes simplex virus of claim 16, wherein an essential viral gene product of said virus is under the control of a tumor cell-specific promoter rather than its own viral promoter.

29. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the herpes simplex virus of claim 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle for said virus.

30. (New) The herpes simplex virus of claim 28, wherein said tumor cell-specific promoter is nestin promoter.

31. (New) The herpes simplex virus of claim 28, wherein said tumor cell-specific_promoter is basic fibroblast growth factor promoter.

32. (New) The herpes simplex virus of claim 28, wherein said tumor cell-specific promoter is epidermal growth factor promoter.